

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8, 29 and 31 without prejudice, and amend claims 1 and 9 as follows:

C1
1. (Currently Amended) An inflatable toy apparatus, comprising:
an inflatable elongated body having a length, a front end and a rear end;
a gripping piece that is provided along a portion of the length of the elongated
body;

a nose piece fixedly secured to the front end of the elongated body, the nose piece made from a material that is different from that of the elongated body; and
a plurality of tails provided at the rear end of the elongated body.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tails are made from a material that is different from that of the elongated body.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tails are made from a material that is the same as that of the elongated body.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tails are curved.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a plurality of winglets provided on the nose piece.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of the tails has a tail piece provided to cover portions of the one of the tails, the tail piece being made from a material that is different from that of the the one of the tails.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the tails and the elongated body are inflatable at the same time.

8. (Canceled).

Cont
C1
9. (Currently Amended) An inflatable toy apparatus, comprising:
an inflatable elongated body having a front end and a rear end;
a nose piece fixedly secured to the front end of the elongated body, the nose piece
made from a material that is different from that of the elongated body; and
a tail assembly that is separate and removable from the elongated body, the tail
assembly provided at the rear end and having a hollow cylindrical tube that receives the
elongated body, with a plurality of tails provided about the tube.

10-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inflatable elongated body has a
nozzle through which air is introduced into the body.

29. (Canceled).

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the inflatable elongated body has a
nozzle through which air is introduced into the body.

31. (Canceled).
